

Peterson, Bobbye

From: Bill Bracht <grandpabull1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 2:25 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: SUBJECT: BILL HB-7095
Attachments: Email to Ms. McKenna.pdf

I am a challenged Grandparent, and I have been fighting for visitation with my Granddaughter for the past three years. I have gone to court in Bridgeport, CT under the Grandparents Law and was told to come back with an Attorney.

As a challenged and very upset Grandparent I support HB 7095 in its entirety and no Grandparent has ever obtained visitation rights per existing statute 466-59. CT is the worst state for grandparents rights and the protection of our grandchildren.

Massachusetts, South Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, California and many other states have our proposed law.

All I can do is pray that the laws will change to help grandparents and their grandchildren. I find this hard to believe that in the United States of America a grandfather would have to go to court and have someone tell him if he can see his granddaughter.

I'm 72 years old, a 4 year Veteran to the US NAVY, father of 4, grandfather of 9, and in shock of how grandparents are treated.

The denial of visitation will cause real and significant harm to my granddaughter. What ever happened to family values? Where did the respect for the family seniors go?

I have contacted many state agencies and continue to do so in the state of Connecticut. I have attached one of many emailed documents as an example, and the response I have received is "it is not our job".

Who will make this "their job" and a priority to help families such as mine and many others that endure this same situation of heartbreak and struggle to be granted the simple rights of being able to see their grandchild?

Sincerely,

William Bracht
394 Central Islip Blvd
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
(631) 379-7018

Bill Bracht

From: Bill Bracht <grandpabull1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 12:55 PM
To: Bill Bracht
Subject: Fwd: letter to OCA

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From: Bill Bracht <grandpabull1@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 21, 2018 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Re: letter to OCA
To: bill@rubies.com <bill@rubies.com>

Ms. McKenna,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read and respond to my letter.

I understand that OCA is an independent state agency mandated to oversee and evaluate the delivery of services to children by CT state agencies.

However, through my due diligence, I have found that DCF is not performing their job or following through with their obligations to protect children. I have encountered corruption in almost every corner of the system. There are corrupt case workers that are putting children in dangerous situations and aren't addressing complaints and suspicions of abuse made by family and outsiders. Does anyone even follow up on these complaints? More importantly, is there any follow up on the welfare of the children placed in these homes?

I honestly believe my granddaughter is in danger. She is being emotionally abused and manipulated on a daily basis by the people who are supposed to be providing a safe environment for her. She is repeatedly alienated from her family based on anger in response to inquiries we regularly make regarding her wellbeing and progress in court. They have physically threatened Gabriella's mother while allowing Gabriella to bear witness to it.

She has stated to my family and I that Suzie Murphy, whom she refers to as her mother, has hit her. She has also stated that Kevin Murphy has punished her simply for expressing discomfort she is feeling in their care.

They live in an isolated area, have firearms in their home (we don't even know if these are properly secured) and they also have living in their home an emotionally unstable teenager who has said to Gabriella, "you'll see her when you're dead," in response to a question Gabriella asked regarding when she would next be able to see her mother.

DCF has been in notice of these incidents and many others but have failed to take any corrective action despite this being a mess of their own making, coupled with the filing of falsified court documents and the sickening practices of a corrupt DCF case worker.

I'm sorry to say that as DCF has not done their job and neither has OCA. I can only postulate that people are being protected from the consequences of corrupt practices and negligence. I've done my due diligence and every agency I have reported the abuse to has referred me to a different agency, who in turn refers me to yet another. I understand this doesn't fall under your scope of responsibilities to follow up on these reports, but it also seems like it's not anyone's job to do so. Every day that passes is another day that the State of Connecticut is allowing a five-

your obligation to remain in an abusive situation because nobody wants to step up as someone to help her. This is appalling and unscrupulous at its very core.

Further, please look into the background of DCF Case Worker Dorothy Sekulski who was a major contributor of problems from the very beginning of this case which is now nothing less than a chaotic and dangerous situation.

Regards,

William Bracht

Member, Grandparents Rights Advocates National Delegation, USA

Member, Grandparents Advocates of America, Inc., CT Chapter

On Thu, Aug 16, 2018 at 12:58 PM Bill Bracht <grandpabull1@gmail.com> wrote:

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From: McKenna, Julie <Julie.McKenna@ct.gov>

Date: Thu, Aug 16, 2018 at 12:55 PM

Subject: letter to OCA

To: grandpabull1@gmail.com <grandpabull1@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Bracht:

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is in receipt of your letter dated July 20, 2018, in which you describe concerns for your granddaughter Gabriella. OCA is an independent state agency, mandated to oversee and evaluate the delivery of services to children by CT state agencies. OCA has reviewed the Department of Children and Families' case record on Gabriella. It is our understanding that the DCF cases are closed and matters of custody and visitation with the child are currently before the family court. OCA does not conduct investigations of custodial arrangements, as you requested, as this is the purview of the court. I must therefore urge you to bring your concerns directly to the family court, with assistance from your counsel.

Any concerns of child abuse or neglect that arise must be reported to the DCF Careline so that they can be investigated. Though there is currently no role for OCA; we welcome you to contact our office with further questions or concerns. Along with my colleagues, I wish the best for you and your family.